

For Details, Contact:

Harold McKinney
Legal Counsel
Phone (502) 573-0050
Fax (502) 564-2912
email
hmckinne@apa1.aud.state.ky.us

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts
144 Capitol Annex
Frankfort, KY 40601

News from State Auditor Ed Hatchett's Office

Hatchett Releases Audit of Casey County Sheriff's Office

(Frankfort) State Auditor Ed Hatchett today released his audit of the 1997 financial statements of Casey County Sheriff Robert Weddle. As Auditor of Public Accounts, Hatchett is responsible for auditing the accounts and financial transactions of Kentucky's county governments and state agencies. State law requires the Auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

The Sheriff's responsibilities include collecting real estate taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The Sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit contains the following comments and recommendations:

- Sheriff Weddle, for the second consecutive year, failed to refrain from conduct giving the appearance of a related party transaction. Specifically, the Sheriff paid \$1,602 to Liberty Tire and Muffler for auto repairs and maintenance. The Sheriff's brother owns the Liberty Tire and Muffler Company. According to the Sheriff, "the Casey County Ethics Board reviewed the situation and found no problem with these transactions. However, this approval was not recorded in the minutes of the Fiscal Court." We recommend that the Casey County Board of Ethics review these transactions and consider revising their ethics code.
- Sheriff Weddle did not present an annual financial statement to the fiscal court as required by KRS 134.310. We recommend the Sheriff insure that his annual financial statement is presented to and approved by the Fiscal Court.